

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 12, 14 to 22, and 24 to 32 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

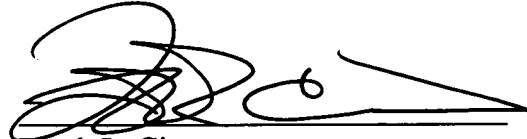
As an initial matter, Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgment during a teleconference that, while they were indicated as "objected to" in the Office Action Summary but were not addressed in the detailed action, Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 41 and 42 do contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 to 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 to 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 to 40 and 43 to 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,049.

Claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 13, 23 and 33 to 49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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